

## Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

DRC-01 NIC-01 /111 W

----- 013805

R 021201Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5972

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSAAG

CJCS

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 6215

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: FANK HAS A GOOD DAY AT PREY VENG AND KAMPOT

1. AFTER MORE THAN ONE MONTH OF DISCOURAGING NEWS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD, FANK FINALLY HAD A GOOD DAY AT THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PREY VENG YESTERDAY. THE COMMUNIST HAD DESIGNATED PREY VENG AS A PRIME TARGET FOR THEIR DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE BATTLE FOR THE CITY YESTERDAY, FANK KILLED 108 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS, SEIZED 84 WEAPONS AND CAPTURED FIVE PRISONERS WHILE SUFFERING ONLY 10 KIA. WHILE ONE SWALLOW DOES NOT MAKE A SUMMER, IT NEVERTHELESS HELPS TO DISPEL SOME OF THE GLOOM SPREAD BY FANK CRITICS ABOUT FANK'S PERFORMANCE. I VISITED PREY VENG LAST WEEK AND WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE HIGH MORALE OF THE DEFENDERS AND THEIR FEVERISH PREPARATIONS TO GET THEMSELVES READY FOR THE ATTACK. FOR EXAMPLE, THE POPULATION HAD BUILD AN AIRSTRIP WORKING DAY AND NIGHT, AND KAF C-123 HAVE BEEN USING IT IN RESUPPLYING THE ENCLAVE.

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2. ANOTHER ENCOURAGING BIT OF NEWS HAS COME FROM

KAMPOT, WHERE FANK HAVE ENLARGED THE DEFENSE PERIMETER IN MOST DIRECTIONS; THIS AFTERNOON WE HAVE REPORTS THAT FANK UNITS HAVE FINALLY ELIMINATED THE REMAINING COMMUNIST POSITIONS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE RIVER WHICH CONNECTS KAMPOT WITH THE SEA. WITH THIS, REIVERINE CONVOYS SHOULD BE ABLE TO START BRINGING SUPPLIES INTO THE CITY. SINCE, AFTER THEIR FAILURE TO TAKE PHNOM PENH, KAMPOT WAS THE COMMUNISTS' NEXT TARGET, THE FACT THAT FANK HAS NOT ONLY HELD THE CITY BUT IS NOW PUSHING BACK THE DEFENSE PERIMETER AGAINST STEADILY DIMINISHING COMMUNIST RESISTANCE, MUST ALSO BE ENTERED ON THE SUCCESS SIDE OF THE LEDGER FOR FANK.

3. I INTEND TO TAKE THIS LINE WITH LOCAL AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS WHEN I HOLD MY WEEKLY MEETING WITH THEM ON SATURDAY. ANYTHING YOU COULD DO TO PROMOTE THIS SAME LINE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. AFTER THE SETBACKS AT OUDONG AND KOMPONG LOUNG, THE KHMER NEED A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST. FANK'S PERFORMANCE AT PREY VENG AND KAMPOT INDICATES THAT THE ENEMY IS NOT HAVING HIS WAY AT THIS TIME.

4. I AM SEEING MARSHAL LON NOL TOMORROW AFTERNOON ON MILITARY MATTERS. ON THIS OCCASION I WILL CALL HIS ATTENTION TO THE PREOCCUPYING SITUATION AT LOVEK NORTH OF PHNOM PENH WHICH REMAINS A FESTERING BOIL AND WHERE SOME ADVANCE PLANNING IS NEEDED IF ANOTHER SERIOUS SETBACK IS TO BE AVOIDED.  
DEAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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